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Bridging the Gap II

Disability-Inclusive Procurement

Webinar session's Concept Note

Webinar session – 23 March 2020

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3561993667395540492>





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What is Bridging the Gap II?

“Bridging the Gap II – Inclusive Policies and Services for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (BtG-II) is an initiative funded by the European Union aiming to the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries. BtG-II is implemented by a consortium coordinated by FIIAPP – Spanish Cooperation and composed by the Austrian Development Agency, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Disability Forum, the International Disability and Development Consortium and, as observers, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

BtG-II works in five countries (Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Sudan) to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities as well as at global level to reinforce disability inclusion’s mainstreaming in international cooperation through a dedicated Knowledge and Learning Management Strategy (KMLS). The activity described in the present document is framed in the context of said KMLS.

For further information on Bridging the Gap II, please visit the official website

www.bridgingthegap-project.eu

Background information – Inclusive public procurement

Public procurement has a direct impact on daily life, employment conditions, health and the social inclusion of discriminated groups, **including persons with disabilities** who face daily barriers ranging from inaccessible environments, facilities and services to discrimination and negative attitudes. Inclusive public procurement can remove these barriers and it can be used to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Public procurement is a process by which public authorities at all level purchase goods and services and it is used to allocate large volumes of public spending each year.





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According to a 2015 World Bank evaluation¹, **between 5 and 20 per cent of Gross National Income is generally spent through procurement systems**. In the European Union, Member States were estimated to spend around 14 per cent of GDP through public procurement². This figure may be much higher in developing countries, particularly considering expenditure across levels of governments.

Against this background, it is paramount to understand that **making public procurement laws, policies and practices compliant with the CRPD is not only an obligation, but an effective way to mainstream inclusion in many sectors at different levels**.

Inclusive procurement can be used to promote human rights of persons with disabilities, to improve accessibility (Articles 9 and 21) to promote equality (Article 5), and to foster inclusive and accessible international cooperation practices (Article 32). The EU recognises that mainstreaming innovative, green, and social criteria as well as procurement of innovative solutions at the pre-commercial stage requires not only a highly competent pool of public procurers but above all policy vision and political ownership³.

The European Union and its Member States, as any other donor, have the responsibility **to define the award rules of public procurement contracts in a way which must be inclusive of, non-discriminatory and accessible to persons with disabilities**.

Description of the activity

In the framework of its Knowledge and Learning Management Strategy, **BtG-II delivers a synthetic analysis how Procurement has been and can be made compliant to the CRPD**. The activity enables collecting, systematising and sharing of knowledge concerning disability-inclusive procurement practices and examples, as well as awareness raising, in a **synthetic guidance note providing information and indications on how to undertake inclusive procurement** (service, work and supply contracts). The Guidance note is drafted by **Sylvia Beales**, Director BealesGelber Consult – Inclusive Social Development consultancy, **BtG-II expert**.

¹ [The World Bank Group and Public Procurement: An independent evaluation.](#)

² [European Semester Thematic Factsheet - Public Procurement](#)

³ COM(2017) 572 final





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On the 27th of February 2020 it took place in Brussels a **Learning Space (LS)** to present **the results of the analysis and the synthetic guidance note** and to consolidate the knowledge collected as well as to raise awareness and discuss with BtG stakeholders. The inputs collected during the session have helped the expert in consolidating and finalising the guidance note, whose final version will be presented in a dedicated **webinar learning session on Monday, March 23rd at 2:30 CET (Brussels time)**.

The webinar will last 1.5 hours and it will be structured as follows:

From 2:30 to 15:00: **Learning the topic**

- What is Disability-Inclusive Procurement?
- Concepts of accessible and sustainable procurement
- Overview of experiences of disability inclusive procurement within the draft Guidance
- Why does inclusion of persons with disability matter to public procurement?

From 15:00 to 15:30: **Challenges and opportunities**

- Lessons to learn for disability-inclusive procurement practices, challenges and way forward
- Partnerships in making procurement compliant with the CRPD.

From 15:30 to 16:00: **Closing remarks and Q&A**

Practical information

Registration is compulsory via the online form available [here](#).

The webinar is open to any interested party, with particular regards to:

- Public development cooperation practitioners at all levels (multi/bilateral, local, etc.);
- Organisations of persons with disabilities;
- Public authorities' civil servants, in particular those in charge of public procedures, finance, etc.

Languages: English.

Live captioning at the link: TBA

